

debating and close discussion went on The famous
 Four did not only meet and argue there, however, they
 were incessantly sharpening their notably quick wits
 against one another, spending week-ends and evenings
 together, reading and arguing In addition to this, they
 "plodded away," to quote Shaw again, ^{ec}at footling little
 meetings and dull discussions, doggedly placing these
 before all private engagements, however tempting " No
 meeting was too small, or too large, for them they were
 for ever busy, injecting Socialism They talked in club-
 rooms and drawing-rooms, before Trade Union and Co-
 operative branches and workingmen's associations of all
 kinds they also organised meetings of their own As
 many as seven hundred lectures were delivered by members
 in a single year, and the lion's share of this work fell to
 the Quartette Some of them, although not Sidney,
 talked out of doors as well as indoors but, in the main
 they left the street corner to the S D F, and selected
 atmospheres permitting close argument and the following
 up of points, above all in question and answer The
 work was hard

"A man's Socialistic acquisitiveness must be keen enough to
 make him actually prefer spending two or three nights a week in
 speaking and debating, or in picking up social information even
 in the most dingy and scrappy way, to going to the theatre or
 dancing or drinking, or even sweethearting, if he is to become
 a really competent propagandist "x

It was hard, but they did "actually prefer" it

What
sweetened the toil, and made the whole
thing immense
fun, was the keenness of mutual life and the
eager com-
radeship that went with it

They talked, they also wrote,—and wrote
assiduously
Part of the machinery of education, both of
themselves